

Spiritual Warfare: Identifying the Enemy (I Peter 5:8-9; Ephesians 6:12)

Introduction

Things occur around us daily that can only be explained by the supernatural. Regularly, believers see and acknowledge the Hand of God in their daily activities. In similar fashion, we must realize that God's adversary, the Devil, is at work as well. He is subtle, diligent, and aggressive in his efforts to subvert God's plan for this world.

As a result, there is a war – an ongoing spiritual battle between God and Satan. In fact, it is raging in this room, today. The hearts of mankind is one of the battlegrounds. The allegiance of mankind is one of the spoils of that battle. The war has been raging for milleniums. It will continue until Satan is cast into his final place of destiny, the eternal lake of fire.

Interestingly, many believers minimize this warfare, even though the Bible is clear about its reality. In fact, my opinion is that those who serve the Devil are more convinced of it's reality that those who oppose him.

Contextualize the Spiritual Warfare Series. The purpose of this series is to expose the enemy, so that you and I may have become more effective for God, by resisting the efforts of the enemy.

There is a danger in this type of study. People tend to go to extremes. Some minimize the reality and activity of Satan, thus giving him a proverbial "foot in the door" into their lives to wreak havoc. The other extreme is to glorify the activity of Satan by "looking for a demon behind every bush" and thus giving Satan too much credit.

Contextualize I Peter 5:8-9.

I. The Fall Of Satan (Ezekiel 28:1-5, 11-17)

- A) Created by God ((Ezekiel 28:15)
- B) Crowning creation (Ezekiel 28:12)
- C) Powerful creation (Ezekiel 28:14a; Eph. 1:20-21)
- D) Desired to be God (Ezekiel 28:16-17)

II. The Sin of Satan (isaiah14:12-17)

Principle – The sin of pride is subtle and consuming and is the root of mankind’s sinfulness.

Illustration: *Bridge over the river Kwai* movie. The film deals with the situation of British prisoners of war during World War II who are ordered to build a bridge to accommodate the Burma-Siam railway. Their instinct is to sabotage the bridge but, under leadership of Colonel Nicholson, they are persuaded that the bridge should be constructed as a symbol of British morale, spirit and dignity in adverse circumstances.

Application

IF you are going to continue as a person used by God, you will recognize that all that you have comes from God and you will cast yourself in complete dependence upon Him.

I do not believe that there is any temptation that faces us more frequently or confronts us more persistently or entices us more subtly than the temptation to pride, because Satan is seeking to reproduce himself (I Corinthians 10:13).

III. The Activity of Satan (Ephesian 6:10-12)

A) His long war against God

- 1) Old Testament evidence (Eden, Job, Elisha, David)
- 2) Inter-Testamental evidence (Demon possession, tempting of Jesus, Peter)
- 3) New Testament evidence

B) His unholy purposes

- 1) Assume a place authority
- 2) Keep unbelievers from the truth
- 3) Render the church ineffective

C) His evil tactics

- 1) Lies
- 2) Pride
- 3) Doubts
- 4) Accusations

Conclusion

Satan's opposition is the outworking of his own rebellion and distorted perception.

Satan's opposition is not to be found so much in the bizarre and the supernatural as it is in that which seems natural and even human.